



EMBASSY UPDATES

A Newsletter for U.S. citizens in El Salvador

Winter 2023



Granby, Colorado

U.S. Embassy San Salvador

American Citizens Services Unit

Monday—Thursday, 7:30 am—11:30 am

Friday, 7:30 am—12:30 pm

Email: ACSSanSal@state.gov



Message from Ambassador William Duncan



My family and I are honored to return to El Salvador after 25 years away, this time as Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador. It is a dream come true to be able to return to this wonderful country along with my wife, Nora.

The U.S. Embassy has no higher priority than the safety and security of U.S. citizens in El Salvador, and I personally take this responsibility very seriously. I firmly believe that the prosperous future of all who live here, including all of you, depends on strengthening the ties between our countries and even more importantly our people. Our Mission will continue to work with El Salvador to improve security, strengthen governance, and promote prosperity for all. You have my full commitment that I will do everything in my power to look out for your interests and strengthen the close relationship between El Salvador and the United States of America.



CLV CONFERENCE AND RECRUITMENT

On November 17, 2022, the American Citizens Services Unit hosted the Annual Conference for the American Liaison Network (ALN).

ALN Volunteers, formerly known as wardens, are essential in helping us connect with the U.S. citizen community and in facilitating communication in the event of a crisis; therefore, their constant training is important to strengthen their crisis preparedness skills.

During the conference, ALN members were able to share experiences, meet and greet, and learn from Civil Protection delegates on the work of municipal level emergency committees and how they get activated in the event of an emergency.

ALN Volunteers are a key element to help us achieve our highest priority: to serve and protect U.S. citizens overseas.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Are you connected to the U.S. citizen community in El Salvador? Consider volunteering to serve both the United States and El Salvador by being part of our American Liaison Network. As part of the network, you will receive periodical training and participate in emergency drills.

If you are interested in becoming a Citizen Liaison Volunteer and reside in the following departments and cities: **Ahuachapán, La Libertad, San Miguel, Usulután, San Vicente, Chalatenango, Cabañas, and La Unión**, Please email ACSSanSal@state.gov stating your interest and your contact information.



Our Services



Consular Report of Death Abroad (CRODA)

When a U.S. citizen dies in El Salvador, the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador can assist the family and friends during this difficult time. Death is a time of crisis for one's family and friends no matter where it takes place. If a death occurs overseas, the experience can be even more traumatic, especially if the procedures involved are not clearly understood.

The American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit at the United States Embassy in San Salvador issues a Consular Report of Death Abroad which is an English-language document based on the information contained in the Salvadoran death certificate; it is usually needed by the family to finalize any pending legal matters in the United States such as insurance claims, pensions, close U.S. bank accounts, etc.

A Consular Officer will issue twenty original Consular Reports of Death Abroad to the next of kin of the deceased U.S. Citizen, free of charge.

The ACS Unit also notifies the Social Security Administration (SSA) Regional Office in Costa Rica and the Vital Records Office of the death (if applicable). In order to report the death of a U.S. citizen in El Salvador please send an email to ACSSanSal@state.gov with the following information:

- Copy of U.S. passport of the deceased citizen
- Copy of the Salvadoran Death Certificate
- Contact information and copy of ID of the next-of-kin

We will answer your email within the next two business days and send you detailed instructions to schedule an appointment to pick up the Consular Report of Death Abroad.

For more information, visit our website:

<https://sv.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/death-of-u-s-citizen/>

The form is titled "REPORT OF DEATH OF A U.S. CITIZEN OR U.S. NON-CITIZEN NATIONAL ABROAD" and is issued by the U.S. Department of State. It contains various fields for personal information, date of death, place of death, cause of death, and disposition of remains. It also includes a section for notification of federal agencies and a signature line for the consular officer. The form is marked with a (SEAL) and a date stamp.

Our Services



Renew Your Adult U.S. Passport through Cargo Expreso and Pay for It Online



The Embassy is offering adult passport renewal by mail through a local courier service, Cargo Expreso, to qualified applicants. We encourage all qualified applicants to use this service and avoid long delays in scheduling an appointment and inconvenient travel to the Embassy.

You **MUST** meet the following criteria to qualify for this method:

- ☐ Your current U.S. passport book/card is in your possession;
- ☐ You were at least 16 years old when your most recent U.S. passport book/card was issued (10-year validity passport);
- ☐ If expired, your most recent U.S. passport book/card cannot have expired more than 5 years ago;
- ☐ Your current U.S. passport was issued under your current legal name (no name changes are accepted by mail);
- ☐ You can wait up to 4 weeks to receive your new passport (you do not have any emergency travel).

If you are using the Cargo Expreso service to renew your U.S. adult passport, remember you can pay for your passport online through pay.gov. Keep in mind that after successfully paying the fee, you must print out the electronic payment confirmation you receive via email and include it in the package you send us through Cargo Expreso.

To learn more on how to apply through Cargo Expreso, please visit the following link: [HERE](#) and click on the PDF: [Adult Passport Renewal by Mail Using Cargo Expreso's Courier Service](#)

Renew Your Passport Now, Even If You're Not Traveling Soon

Even if a trip isn't on your calendar anytime soon, grab your passport and check when it expires. The best way to feel confident about getting a new passport is by starting the process with enough time. The standard time for the Department of State to release a passport overseas is about **2-4 weeks**. Emergencies also happen, so anticipate them and deal with your passport **NOW**.

Passport forms and requirements depend on the applicant's situation. Please take your time and carefully read instructions, requirements, and how to apply for a passport on our website: [PASSPORT SERVICES](#).

Remember, even if you are not traveling soon, there is nothing wrong with submitting a passport application ahead of time (*3 or 6 months before expiration*).

Avoid stress and potential financial loss. Please, do not procrastinate!

To Remember



What is a Form DS-3053 and When Should I Use It?

U.S. Department of State
STATEMENT OF CONSENT:
ISSUANCE OF A U.S. PASSPORT TO A CHILD
Please Print Legibly Using Black Ink Only. If you make an error, complete a new form. Do not correct.

OMB CONTROL NO. 1405-0129
EXPIRES: 12-31-2023
Estimated Burden: 20 minutes

RESET

1. CHILD'S NAME (As it appears on form DS-11, Application for a U.S. Passport)

Last First Middle

2. CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy)

3. THIS CONSENT IS VALID FOR A:
☐ Passport Book and Card ☐ Book Only ☐ Card Only

4a. IS CHILD UNDER 16 YEARS OLD?
☐ Yes ☐ No

4b. IF YES, PRINT NAME OF ADULT APPLYING WITH CHILD

5. STATEMENT OF CONSENT To be completed by the legal parent/legal guardian who cannot apply with the child. The legal parent/legal guardian who cannot apply with the child must complete the information below. This statement expires 90 days after the date of notarization.

I, _____, give my consent to the issuance of a United States passport to the minor child named on this application. My consent is unconditional with regards to passport validity and travel.

Print Name of Legal Parent/Legal Guardian (who cannot apply in person with the child)

Street Address Apt# City State Zip Code

Area Code Telephone Number Email Address

STOP! YOU MUST SIGN AND DATE BELOW IN FRONT OF A NOTARY.

OATH: I declare under penalty of perjury that all statements made in this supporting document are true and correct.

Signature of Legal Parent/Legal Guardian (who cannot apply in person with the child) Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

IMPORTANT: You must submit a clear photocopy of the front and back of the identification you presented to the notary. The date you sign the form must be the same date that the notary signs the form.

6. FOR COMPLETION BY NOTARY

On the date specified above and below, the affiant listed above, who is not related to me, personally appeared before me and is known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the uses and purposes therein contained. I have properly verified the identity of the affiant by personally viewing the below notated identification document and matching photocopy.

Name of Notary _____

Print Name (Notary Public) _____

Location _____

City, State _____

Commission Expires _____

Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

NOTARY SEAL

Identification Presented by Legal Parent/Legal Guardian (who cannot apply in person with the child)
☐ Driver's License ☐ Passport ☐ Military ID ☐ Other (specify) _____

Legal Parent/Legal Guardian ID Number: _____

Place of Issue: _____

Issue Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Expiration Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Signature of Notary _____

Date of Notarization: _____

DS-3053 12-2020 Page 2 of 2

Form DS-3053 is a statement authorizing a person to apply for a passport with a minor under the age of 16 when one or both parents or legal guardians cannot be present at the interview.

Children under the age of 16 need permission from both parents or legal guardians to be issued a U.S. passport. The parents or legal guardians must appear in person with the child to request a first-time passport or to renew it.

If one of the parents or legal guardians cannot come in person to apply for the child's passport, they must fill out form DS-3053, and have it notarized. This gives the other parent or legal guardian permission to apply for the passport with the child.

This form should be filled out by the parent who cannot attend the interview and signed in front of a public notary or consular officer. The form requires that the parent show the notary an ID. A clear and legible photocopy of the front and back sides of this ID should be attached to the form. This form is free of charge if notarized at the Embassy.

Note: The original form should be sent to the parent applying with the child. Keep in mind that once the form is signed, it is only valid for 90 days.

To Remember



American Legion

American Legion Post One in El Salvador extends an invitation to veterans from all U.S. services no matter when and where you served to join their Post and take part in their activities.

You can contact the Post Commander Alex Montenegro via cell/WhatsApp at 7190-9475 or email him at almontblack@hotmail.com to learn more.

Thank you for your service.

To Remember



Additional Resources for U.S. citizens in El Salvador



If you are a U.S. citizen visiting or living in El Salvador and are in need of medical assistance, legal assistance, or translation services, you may find someone who can provide the service in the following links:

- [Translators](#)
- [Legal Assistance](#)
- [Medical Assistance](#)

NOTE: This section contains information about local resources available for U.S. citizens visiting or living in El Salvador. The Department of State assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability, reputation, or quality of services provided by the entities or individuals whose names appear on the lists. Inclusion on these lists is not an endorsement by the Department or the U.S. government.



Emergency Resources



Local Police

Emergency Phone: **911** or visit the [nationwide directory](#) to call a specific PNC delegation.
Website: [Policia Nacional Civil](#) or PNC.



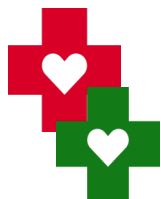
Fire Department

Phone: 913 or (503) 2527-7300, or visit their [phone directory](#).
Website: [Bomberos de El Salvador](#)



Civil Protection

Phone: 2527-7122
Website: [Protección Civil](#)



Salvadoran Red Cross

Phone: (503) 2222-5155,
Website: [Red Cross](#)

Salvadoran Green Cross

Phone: (503) 2284-5792
Website: [Green Cross](#)



U.S. Embassy in El Salvador American Citizens Services

Phone: (503) 2501-2999
Email: ACSSANSAL@state.gov

Embassy Closures



Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, Colorado

February 20th — President's Day (U.S.)

April 6th — Holy Thursday (ES)

April 7th — Good Friday (ES)